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RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 4858
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3983
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SUBJECT: NO EU BAN ON U.S. SOY PRODUCTS IN EU AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA

REF: STATE 86566

¶1. Post's Econ and FAS Sections delivered reftel points to the Italian Director General for Trade Amedeo Teti. We also delivered them to Romano Marabelli, Head of the Department of Veterinary Public Health in the Ministry of Health, and to Salvatore Petroli, Chief of EU and International Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture.

¶2. Our Italian interlocutors reported that there is currently no EU ban on imports of U.S. soy products resulting from the recent discovery in Germany and Spain of dust from a biotech corn variety (MON88017) currently prohibited in the European Union. Director General Teti added that as a result, this issue is not on the agenda of items to be discussed at the September 7 EU Agriculture Council meeting. Teti said that he will inform us on the outcome of the EU meeting, should this issue be discussed at all. Teti also added that the decision to stop U.S. soy product imports at ports of entry in Germany and Spain appears to be tied to individual importers/traders in those countries. No such issue exists for Italy.

¶3. Post will report on any substantive information obtained from the Italian Government following the September 7 EU Agriculture Council meeting.

THORNE